

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine,
2 comprising:

3 (A) means for input of information, said means for input further comprising
4 means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, wherein strokes
5 are arranged in stroke categories, a component and a character;

6 (B) means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters
7 and compounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component
8 parts of a Chinese character; ~~said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the iden-~~
9 ~~tification and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accor-~~
10 ~~dance with a selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said char-~~
11 ~~acter as the first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the ortho-~~
12 ~~graphic components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said charac-~~
13 ~~ter's membership within various subsets of Chinese characters;~~

14 (C) means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of
15 strokes used to draw said character, or used to draw subcomponents of a character;

16 (D) means for retrieving Chinese characters and compounds based upon stroke
17 sequence, and subcomponent selection, said processing means including a plurality of
18 Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data; and

19 (E) means for display providing an indication of correspondence between ele-
20 ments of said means for input and said display wherein further ~~character candidate~~ selec-
21 tion information is suggested in response to said input user selections and said candidate
22 selection information includes components that incorporate a user selected subcomponent
23 and eliminates other candidates that do not include a user selected subcomponent.

1 2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for input is se-
2 lected from the group consisting of a keyboard and a touchscreen.

1 3. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said
2 touch screen which is incorporated with said display means, and said touch screen com-
3 prises a virtual keyboard comprising a representation of keys, each said key representa-
4 tion assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said touch screen
5 further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more
6 key and a wild card key.

1 4. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said
2 keyboard, said keyboard comprising keys, each said keys assigned to selection of a
3 stroke, a component or a character, and said keyboard further comprising a special func-
4 tion key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

1 5. Cancelled

1 6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage com-
2 prises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the
3 group consisting of (1) the frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's
4 language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all
5 Chinese words.

1 7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said component is ortho-
2 graphic.

1 8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said component is selected
2 from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a com-
3 ponent comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein an order for the
2 display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible
3 Chinese characters and an order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on
4 the previous selection.

1 10. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the character frequencies are
2 altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 (A) inputting a selection for an initial stroke of a Chinese character, wherein
4 the initial stroke is traditionally the first stroke drawn when drawing the Chinese charac-
5 ter by hand, and suggesting candidates based upon (1) the identification and order of
6 strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a selected clas-
7 sification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first character
8 of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic components of said
9 character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's membership within
10 various subsets of Chinese characters and displaying said candidates in response to said
11 initial stroke input, wherein said candidates include at least one character or at least one
12 subcomponent, being a portion of a character said candidates being limited based upon
13 said user's prior selections of a subcomponent;

14 (B) selecting a character or, if a desired character is not displayed, selecting a
15 further stroke, wherein the further stroke is traditionally the next stroke drawn when
16 drawing the Chinese character by hand, or a displayed subcomponent, being a next drawn
17 portion of a character; and

18 (C) selecting a word associated character or a non-word associated character,
19 such that Chinese text is constructed with said selections.

1 12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein selection of said nonword
2 associated character automatically appends a word separator.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said step of
2 inputting further comprising selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke,
3 a component and a character.

1 14 – 16 Cancelled.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising
2 providing a component that is orthographic.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said compo-
2 nent is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental
3 strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

1 19. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the order for the display of
2 component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese
3 characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previ-
4 ous selection.

1 20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the character frequencies
2 are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific opera-
3 tor.

1 21. Cancelled

1 22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having a program
2 recorded thereon for input of Chinese characters into a computer comprising:

3 (A) means for input of stroke, a component and a character;

4 (B) means connected to the input means for storage of data including:

5 (i) a character table that includes, for each of a plurality of characters,
6 data related to the strokes and the sequence of strokes used to write the character and data
7 related to components forming the character; and

8 (ii) a component table that includes, for each of a plurality of compo-
9 nents, data related to the strokes and the sequence of strokes used to write the component;
10 and

11 (C) means for processing connected to the input means and the storage means,
12 including:

13 (i) means for expanding an input through the input means into strokes
14 with reference to the component table;

15 (ii) means for identifying character candidates having a stroke se-
16 quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes from the character table;

17 (iii) means for identifying components-, being portions of characters,
18 and for identifying subcomponents, being portions of components, having a stroke se-
19 quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes from the component table; and

20 (iv) means for presenting the identified character candidates and com-
21 ponent candidates for selection on means for display connected to said process means and
22 the storage means wherein candidates are proposed based upon user selections and said
23 candidates include components that incorporate a user selected subcomponent and other
24 candidates that do not include a user selected subcomponent are eliminated.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim
2 22, wherein character candidates and ~~said~~ component candidates are presented in a first
3 area on said display means, and said program further comprises:

4 means for presenting a stroke input through the input means in a second area on
5 said display means;

means for replacing the strokes being presented in the second area by a component input through the input means; and

means for clearing the contents of the second area, and presenting a character input through the input means in a third area on said display means.

24. Cancelled

25. (New) A computer readable medium for input into a machine having a keyboard and a display screen a desired Chinese text, the computer readable medium having program instructions for performing the steps comprising:

(A) receiving operator input from an associated device for allowing the operator to select one or more of a stroke, a component and a character;

(B) in response to a operator input of a stroke, retrieving from one or more associated data structures, candidates that begin with the stroke entered by the operator based upon the frequency of occurrence of said candidate in the operator's language or prior usage, which candidates include one or more of the following:

(i) character candidates including word associated characters and non-word associated characters; and

(ii) intermediate structures including a complex component, and a simple subcomponent, wherein said intermediate structures include subcomponents other than radicals;

(C) in response to a operator input of a component selection, determining whether a complex component has been selected, and if a complex component has been selected, removing strokes from an associated buffer, and retrieving from one or more associated data structures components that may include the complex component selected as leading sub-component, and if a simple component is selected, retrieving characters that begin with that component;

(D) in response to a character selection, determining whether a word associated character is selected and if so, retrieving from one or more associated data structures, words beginning with the word associated character, and if a non-word associated charac-

24 ter is selected, appending a word separator to an associated character buffer, followed by
25 the selected non-word associated character; and
26 (E) updating the display with one or more retrieved candidates, and allowing
27 the user to make further selections until the desired text is provided.